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PART IV.

OFFICIAL PAPERS.

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ADDRESS

OF THE

DEWAN OF MYSORE

TO

THE REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY

27th October 1909

GENTLEMEN,

It is now my privilege, by command of His Highness the Maharaja, to lay before you a brief resumé of the administration of the State during the past year and a forecast of the measures proposed to be carried into effect during the coming year. But, before proceeding to the business of the day, I must congratulate you on the happy auspices under which we meet in consequence of the improvement of the seasonal conditions. The fears that at one time existed of the acute distress of the last year developing into one of the most severe famines that the country has ever known, have, by the grace of God, been dispelled; and His Highness the Maharaja is glad to welcome you to the capital under such happy circumstances. His Highness much appreciates the public spirit which you have displayed in assembling here to perform your duties notwithstanding the prevalence of plague in the City.

THE DISTRESS.

Seasonal conditions.

2. The outstanding feature of the past year has been the severe distress that prevailed over a large area of the State. As you will remember, the years 1904-05 and 1905-06 were disappointing to the agriculturist and in the latter year scarcity of a somewhat grave character prevailed in the districts of Kolar, Tumkur and Chitaldrug and in parts of Shimoga. The rains failed; prices ruled high owing to general causes as well as to the local scarcity, and various relief measures had to be set on foot. Fortunately, however, the opportune rains which fell in the latter part of 1906 relieved the situation and prevented the distress from becoming very acute. The year

1906-07 was also not free from anxiety, though on the whole the rains that year were not inadequate. The outturn of crops was more or less normal, but it was not sufficient to compensate the ryots for the losses they had suffered in the two preceding years. Prices did not much decline from the high pitch they had reached in 1905-06. The year 1907-08 was also abnormal. The rainfall was on the whole more than the average for the previous 37 years but it was ill-distributed and unseasonable. The south-west monsoon was unusually heavy in the malnad and this contributed to the high provincial average. But it was deficient in the maidan districts. The north-east monsoon on which the maidan districts mainly depended for the filling of their tanks was disappointing. The districts of Tumkur and Chitaldrug fared very badly, the actual rainfall being 2½ and 2¾ inches against an average of 8½ and 6½ inches respectively. The Vaisakhi crop failed in consequence, the total outturn was much less than during the previous year and the prices of food grains, which were already high, rose still higher. The year 1908-09 thus opened under very unfavourable auspices. The south-west monsoon from April to September was not as good as the situation required. Though the monthly averages showed no marked deficiency, the rainfall was neither timely nor well-distributed in any of the districts. This was particularly the case in the Kolar, Tumkur and Chitaldrug districts. In September, however, there were some showers in all parts of the State, which improved the situation to some extent. The advent of the north-east monsoon was then eagerly looked for with the fervent hope that it might prove normal and stave off acute scarcity.

3. The hope was not fulfilled and the north-east monsoon proved a failure in the Bangalore, Kolar, Tumkur and Chitaldrug districts and was very deficient elsewhere. As will appear from the figures given in the margin, the area under cultivation throughout the State during the year under review, excluding alienated tracts for which no returns exist, was (with a small difference in the comparison with 1905-06) the smallest on record during a series of 5 years, showing a decrease of more than 200,000 acres as compared with the two years immediately preceding. The yield of crops was also very poor. Except in the districts of Mysore and Shimoga, the outturn of paddy was less than 8 annas and in Kolar and Tumkur it was much less than 4 annas, a normal crop being reckoned at 16 annas. Ragi was

Year	*Acres*
1904-5	5,926,696
1905-6	5,779,850
1906-7	6,030,486
1907-8	6,011,671
1908-9	5,810,418

nowhere over a 6½-anna crop and was very much less than a 4-anna crop in the Tumkur district. The jola crop was also equally poor. The prices of food grains rose higher than ever ranging up to 30 per cent and more above the high level of 1905-06 and causing hardship not only to the poor labouring and landless classes, but also to the bulk of the small landholders and agriculturists who had no stock of grain to fall back upon. The industrial classes, the artisans and weavers, the latter in particular, found the market for their products contracted. There was difficulty for drinking water also and a serious water famine had to be faced. Fodder for cattle became scarce and cattle disease prevailed in a serious and epidemic form in various parts of the State. The result was that distress of a severe type prevailed over an area of nearly 7,870 square miles with a population of 1,378,000. The number of villages affected was 5,615. This state of things lasted for some months and would have developed into one of the most serious and wide-spread famines that ever afflicted the land, had the hot weather rains and the south-west monsoon of 1909 also unfortunately failed. But as you know we have, by God's grace, been spared this misfortune.

Administrative preparations.

4. I shall now proceed to indicate briefly the various measures adopted to grapple with the situation. Early in the year, as soon as the conditions justified apprehension, the Revenue Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioners of districts undertook frequent tours throughout their charges, watched the situation with care, and submitted to Government a forecast of all such measures as appeared necessary. The Dewan, Mr. Madhava Rao, also toured more than once through the affected tracts and kept himself in close touch with the various officers charged with the conduct of relief operations. And, above all, His Highness the Maharaja, with his usual solicitude for the welfare of his subjects, himself undertook a tour through the affected parts and eventually abandoned a long-cherished wish to visit Japan in company with his brother, a visit which had been arranged before the situation had assumed a grave aspect. Conferences were also held from time to time with the Deputy Commissioners of districts and heads of departments. As a result the following measures of relief were adopted.

Measures of Relief.

5. Allowances were sanctioned to minor public servants on account of the high prices of food grains and provision was made for dispensing gratuitous relief to the aged and the infirm.

6. Tank beds were thrown open for cultivation on favourable terms to increase the local food-supply, as soon as signs of distress were perceived.

7. Nearly a lakh of rupees was spent on the construction of drinking water wells and on other works of general utility and another lakh on account of stone and masonry work to minor tanks. In the execution of departmental works, the Public Works Department was instructed to employ local labour as far as possible, expeditious completion of work being regarded as of minor importance. A large number of Amrit Mahal Kavals and State Forests were thrown open for free grazing and suitable arrangements were made for providing water and other facilities for cattle and their owners in those places. The Forest Department was instructed to cut and stock jungle grass at convenient centres for being sent on to places where a demand for it existed. Permission was given to ryots to cut and utilize for fodder date leaves from Government waste lands Arrangements were made with the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway authorities for reducing the railway charges on fodder imported into the affected tracts. Liberal grants were provided for advances on account of takavi and land improvements and for earth-work to restored and unrestored tanks. Under takavi, a sum of more than Rs. 1,80,000 was disbursed as advances under section 194 of the Land Revenue Code for the purchase of bullocks, fodder, seed-grains, etc., and for subsistence. A sum of nearly 2 lakhs of rupees was spent on land improvement loans, the bulk of which was utilized for the construction of irrigation wells, while advances for earth-work and repairs of tanks amounted to nearly Rs. 60,000.

8. By way of special relief to weavers who were hard pressed owing to slackness of demand for their goods caused by the distress, a sum of about Rs. 40,000 was given for the purchase by Government of the cloths manufactured by them or as advances for buying yarn.

9. Arrangements were made to procure and stock nearly Rs. 4,000 worth of selected seed ragi for supply to needy ryots at cost price so that they might be ready to avail themselves of any rain that came.

Remissions and suspensions of revenue.

10. Government decided to forego the grazing fees (*kulbanni*) in the affected areas and the mohatarfa tax in the case of a large number of non-agriculturists who were paying a tax of 8 annas and less. Half the assessment on all wet lands which did not yield a crop of more than 25 per cent of the normal was remitted and similarly the collection of half the assessment was postponed in the case of dry lands which failed to yield more than 25 per cent of the normal crop.

11. The seasonal outlook began to improve gradually from April last when there were a few very welcome showers of rain; and in the month of May there was good rainfall amounting to 6·42 inches as against 3·50 in the previous year. This was, however, followed by an inconvenient break which caused some anxiety. The months of June and July closed with an average of 5·35 and 10·02 inches respectively. In August, September and October the rainfall has been very favourable and far in excess of the average. There is thus no longer any necessity for the continuance of relief measures except possibly gratuitous doles to the needy and infirm until the next harvest and the grant of loans for the completion of tanks and irrigation wells, etc., where necessary. In carrying on relief operations, it was noticeable that although there was distress in many parts of the State by the end of November 1908, people would not go on to test works to earn the subsistence wages allowed under the Famine Code and subject themselves to what are commonly known as the wage test and the distance test. To what extent this was due to the self-respecting character of the Mysore ryot, to his social and economic condition and staying power fostered by favourable land settlements and liberal outlay on public works and railways in the past, or to other causes, it is for the student of the economics of the State to adjudge. Suffice it here to say that to provide the means of subsistence for the needy and to prevent their wandering away from their homes, Government were obliged to arrange for works near their villages for them. The wages payable were the usual market rates for unskilled labour, sometimes slightly lowered so as not to withdraw men from their ordinary avocations or from employment by private agencies. This relieved Government from the necessity for having recourse to expensive famine projects with all their attendant risks and demoralising results. At the same time large works of public utility were held in readiness against eventualities.

12. The works that were undertaken, as has already been observed, were mainly the repairs of minor tanks, the construction of drinking water wells, for which there was urgent need everywhere, and other works of sanitary improvement and of general utility. Several of these works would have had to be carried out even under ordinary circumstances in the near future, and the fact of their having been taken up during the scarcity merely led to a slight anticipation of expenditure without involving a large additional outlay on account of relief measures. In addition to these works undertaken at Government

expense, private works were also encouraged by the grant of loans to ryots to enable them to effect land improvements of various kinds and to fulfil their obligations in regard to tank maintenance. In this way the situation was tided over by a programme alike of State agency works and of Private agency works.

13. Six hundred and sixteen tanks including the incomplete works of the previous year were taken up, and of these 186 were completed at a cost of nearly Rs. 1,24,000. A sum of Rs. 56,791 was advanced to ryots for the repair and maintenance of tanks and an expenditure of Rs. 97,989 was incurred by Government on masonry and stone work for tanks. The Public Works Department spent Rs. 57,702 on its ordinary works towards the relief of distress and a sum of Rs. 97,893 was spent on the construction of drinking water wells and on other works of general utility.

14. Local officers were careful to start gratuitous relief at an earlier stage than perhaps the strict letter of the Famine Code would have warranted, in order that the old, the infirm and the crippled as well as indigent gosha women, who would not appear in public, might not starve themselves or be a burden to their able-bodied relations who would otherwise have had to support them. The total expenditure on this account was Rs. 24,516 and the largest number of persons in receipt of gratuitous relief at any time was 4,859 in the first half of March.

Private Charity.

15. Acknowledgment is here due of the considerable help afforded by organized private charity in several parts of the State in affording relief to the poor. In Bangalore, a Relief Committee was formed consisting mostly of the leading merchants of the City to sell ragi in small quantities to poor people at a rate appreciably cheaper than the prevailing market rate, the loss being met by public subscriptions which the Committee collected. It is estimated that nearly 30,000 persons were benefited by this measure. Similar attempts on a smaller scale were made in several other district and taluk head-quarters.

16. This campaign against the distress was conducted under His Highness the Maharaja's guidance by the administration presided over by the late Dewan Mr. V. P. Madhava Rao, C.I.E., who, if he were here, would be the first to acknowledge his obligations to Rajakarya-pravina Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar, who as Revenue Commissioner has had to bear the brunt of the situation. The Government were also ably and ungrudgingly served by the Deputy Commissioners of the districts affected,

notably by Mr. Srikanteswara Iyer of Kolar, Mr. Doraswami Iyer of Tumkur and Mr. Chengiah Chetty of Chitaldrug, and in a minor degree, because only small parts of their respective districts were affected, by Mr. Kantaraj Urs of Mysore, and Mr. Kumaraswami Naik of Bangalore. Reviewing the past, His Highness the Maharaja is satisfied that the measures adopted for the relief of distress were adequate and timely.

FINANCE.

17. I now come to the subject of the finances of the State; but before entering into details, I may refer to the action recently taken by Government in publishing the detailed budget of the year in the Government Gazette. The budget has thus been before the public for over a month and a half, and I have no doubt you have all studied it with interest and care.

Accounts for 1907-08.

18. We take up first the finances of the year 1907-08, the latest year for which final accounts have been prepared. Financially, that year was prosperous beyond expectation. The estimates of that year provided for a surplus of Rs. 14,07,000 on the year's transactions including those relating to the Cauvery Power Scheme, the Famine Insurance and the Sinking Fund for the 20-lakhs loan. But the actual revenue was altogether Rs. 15,32,694 higher than the estimate, and the expenditure was Rs. 42,320 less than the estimate, so that the actual savings of the year amounted to Rs. 29,82,014 instead of the expected Rs. 14,07,000. Out of this were provided the usual famine insurance of two lakhs and Rs. 1,33,333 for the redemption of the 4 per cent loan of 20 lakhs raised for the third installation of the Cauvery Power Scheme, both of which, you will find in the statement A presented to you, are debited as expenditure. The surplus of the year thus amounted to Rs. 26,48,681 as shown in the statement.

Budget of 1908-09.

19. The estimates of the year 1908-09 provided for a revenue of Rs. 228·15 lakhs and an expenditure of Rs. 213·89 lakhs, leaving a surplus of Rs. 14·26 lakhs.

20. These estimates were based on the expectation of normal times. But as we know, the year turned out to be a bad one. The revised estimates thus show considerable variations from the original budget. Owing to remissions and suspensions of revenue, the revised estimate under Land Revenue had to be taken at Rs. 89 lakhs, instead of the original estimate of Rs. 100 lakhs, and the collections under Mohatarfa or assessed taxes had to be taken at Rs. 2 lakhs against the original estimate of Rs. 3·18 lakhs. There was a falling off of a little more than one lakh under Forests owing to the smaller demand for sandalwood. On the

other hand, however, there were increases of revenue under some heads, such as Rs. 2·76 lakhs under Excise, Rs. 78,000 under Stamps and Registration, Rs. 70,000 under Mining Royalty, Rs. 30,000 under Interest and Rs. 2·61 lakhs under Railways.

21. As a result of these and other variations, the revenue of 1908-09 stood, according to the revised estimates, at Rs. 222·46 lakhs against the budget figure of Rs. 228·15 lakhs, or at Rs. 5·69 lakhs less.

22. The scarcity had also its disturbing influences on the expenditure of the year, and would have had the effect of largely increasing the actual expenditure above the estimated figure; but as soon as it was apprehended that a large expenditure might become necessary during the course of the year to cope with the distress, the extent of which could not then be gauged with any precision, energetic steps were taken for securing the strictest economy in all departments of the State.

23. The relief of distress necessitated direct expenditure on establishments, drinking water wells, gratuitous relief, the supply of fodder, the relief of weavers, etc., to the extent of Rs. 1,33,000 against a sanctioned grant of Rs. 2,47,000. There was also an indirect expenditure of Rs. 2,11,000 on special allowances to minor public servants owing to the dearness of food grains and on public works against a sanctioned grant of Rs. 3·88 lakhs. The total expenditure was thus Rs. 3·44 lakhs. Loans and advances amounting to Rs. 3·80 lakhs were also given, but they do not affect the budget. Though considerable additional expenditure was thus incurred in connection with the scarcity, the total expenditure of the year according to the revised estimates was only Rs. 212·94 lakhs against the budget figure of Rs. 213·89 lakhs or Rs. 95,000 less. Almost all the departments of the State contributed to this economy, but there is no denying the fact that much useful and necessary work had on that account to be postponed.

24. The savings of the year thus amounted to only 9·52 lakhs against the expected surplus of 14·26 lakhs. As I have already indicated, it was the exercise of strict economy wherever possible, coupled with the fortunate increase of revenue in certain departments that helped the State to tide over a very trying year without incurring a large deficit.

25. This saving of Rs. 9½ lakhs does not, however, appear as a surplus in the budget but has been used to meet the charges on account of the Sinking Fund (Rs. 1,33,000), the Famine Insurance Reserve (Rs. 2 lakhs) and the

Cauvery Power Scheme Depreciation Fund (Rs. 6,19,000). The revised budget of 1908-09 therefore is exactly balanced and shows neither a deficit nor a surplus.

Budget for 1909-10.

26. We shall now turn to the budget estimates for the current year 1909-10. The agricultural prospects of the year are very hopeful and form a happy contrast to those of the last year. There is every reason to hope that the year will be one of rather more than average outturn of crops, justifying a reasonable expectation of the current demand on account of the land revenue being realised in addition to the whole of the suspended revenue of the last year.

27. The total revenue of the current year is estimated at Rs. 232·93 lakhs and the total expenditure at Rs. 220·42 lakhs. The difference of Rs. 12·51 lakhs between revenue and expenditure is proposed to be distributed as follows :—

	Rs.
To Sinking Fund for the 4 per cent loan	1,33,000
To Famine Insurance Reserve	2,00,000
To Cauvery Power Scheme Depreciation Fund, contribution for 1909-10	3,09,000
To arrears of Cauvery Power Scheme Depreciation Fund	5,54,000
To Budget Surplus	55,000
Total	12,51,000

28. Under expenditure, the allotment for Education has been increased by a lakh of rupees for additional grants to aided schools, for increased staff for Government schools and for adapting the colleges to the new regulations of the University. The organisation of the Public Health Department chiefly accounts for the increase in the Medical budget. A sum of 3 lakhs has been provided for capital expenditure on Railways on account of new engines, rolling stock, etc.

29. An important change has been made in the system of accounts for the Cauvery Power Scheme by keeping them substantially on commercial lines and by opening a Depreciation Fund Account which would show the true measure of profit accruing to Government from the concern. The Depreciation Fund will be fully brought up to date by the end of 1910-11, and from that fund will be met the cost of the heavy renewals of machinery, etc., which will become necessary in a few years.

30. The Public Works grant for the year has been fixed at Rs. 28·21 lakhs from State Funds, and out of this, provision has been made for several useful works such as

the construction and improvement of important irrigation works, like the Hemagiri and Mandigiri channels, the construction of public buildings like Taluk Cutcheries at Chitaldrug and Honnali, a Sandal Koti at Shimoga, the Chamarajendra Technical Institute at Mysore, an Eye Infirmary at Bangalore, and the execution of some important sanitary projects such as water-supply projects for Shimoga and Mudgere.

31. I may also mention that besides the expenditure above referred to from General Revenues, a sum of over 3½ lakhs of rupees is to be spent on primary education from the Village School Fund, a sum of over three-fourths of a lakh on technical education from Local Funds General and a sum of two lakhs on minor irrigation works from the Irrigation Cess Fund.

General Financial Position.

32. Before concluding this portion of the Address, I may invite your attention to a comparison of the assets and liabilities of the State as they stood in 1902 and as they now stand. Such a comparison is presented in the statement marked B which is placed in your hands. You will observe therefrom that the excess of assets over liabilities which stood at Rs. 44·86 lakhs in 1902 has now risen to Rs. 104·22 lakhs. This last-mentioned figure includes, of course, the Cauvery Power Scheme Depreciation Fund and the Famine Reserve which we have been putting by year by year. It is needless to add that the capital value of the large Public Works, Railways, Irrigation Works and the Cauvery Power Scheme on which the State has incurred large outlay are not reckoned here nor indeed that part of the loans and advances given by Government and included among the assets which may hereafter prove to be irrecoverable. On the whole, I trust that the financial position of the State will appear to be safe and sound.

The Accounts Department.

33. During the year several improvements were effected in the working of the Accounts Department. In connection with the scarcity, a Famine Accounts and Audit Manual was drawn up and a staff of accountants was trained in the system. An arrangement was made for the speedy grant of anticipatory pensions to Government servants to prevent hardship in cases where the verification of services and the final settlement of pensions would involve delay. Proposals were elaborated for the organisation of a department of local audit to scrutinise the accounts of District, Municipal and other Local Funds. A Treasury Manual for Mysore to supplement the provisions of the British Indian Civil Account Code and adapt the same to the requirements of the State was under prepa-

ration and the compilation of a Public Works Manual was also taken up.

34. Railway accounts received special attention, and at the instance of the Durbar, the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway Company have agreed to a periodical examination of the accounts of the Mysore State Railways by the Durbar officers.

The Retrenchment Committee.

35. The proposals of the Retrenchment Committee in regard to the Geological and Public Works Departments and the establishments of Travellers' Bungalows were dealt with during the year. It was found impossible to reduce the expenditure of the Geological Department by more than Rs. 1,000 a year; but the proposals in regard to Travellers' Bungalows are expected to result in a saving of Rs. 8,700 a year. In the Public Works Department the changes to be made are somewhat extensive, and, when fully carried out, will result in a reduction of expenditure to the extent of nearly Rs. 1,35,000 a year, the reduction being mainly based upon the idea of a reduced normal grant for expenditure on Public Works. The Committee is now dealing with the Education Department and with the Travelling Allowance Rules.

State Life Insurance.

36. The State Life Insurance Fund did good business, and at the close of the year there were in force 11,717 policies held by 6,417 persons assuring a bonus of 59¼ lakhs of rupees for a monthly premium of Rs. 20,500. The balance at the credit of the fund increased from 16½ lakhs to 18 lakhs of rupees.

LEGISLATION.

The Legislative Council.

37. The Legislative Council met four times during the year and 14 bills engaged its attention. In addition to the bills that were passed into law, the Poisons Bill, the Village Tank Panchayet Bill, the Treasure Trove Bill and the Chief Court Regulation Amendment Bill were under consideration during the year. Other important measures such as the amendment of the Code of Civil Procedure, the consolidation and amendment of the Law of Limitation, the Insolvency Bill and the consolidation and amendment of the law relating to Guardians and Wards have been taken up for consideration during the past few months of the current year.

Regulations passed.

38. Seven Regulations were passed in all during the year, viz. :—

(1) A Regulation to amend the Mysore Stamp Regulation.

(2) The Mysore Newspapers Regulation.

(3) The Mysore Village Offices Regulation.

(4) The Mysore Police Regulation.

(5) A Regulation to amend the Mysore Registration Regulation.

(6) A Regulation to further amend the Mysore Land Revenue Code.

(7) A Regulation to further amend the City of Mysore Improvement Regulation.

39. The first of these brings the Stamp Law in Mysore into line with the Stamp Law of British India. The only important provision which deserves special mention is that leaving a discretion to the Deputy Commissioner as to the amount of fine to be levied on insufficiently stamped documents.

The Mysore Newspapers Regulation.

40. The Mysore Newspapers Regulation was passed with the object of exercising an effective control over a section of the Public Press in the State which had for some time previously been creating much mischief by wantonly misrepresenting the views, actions and motives of the Governments, both of the State and of British India, and indulging in remarks calculated to produce racial hatred and to mislead the people of Mysore and prejudice them against the Paramount Power.

41. The Regulation requires every printer, publisher and editor of a newspaper to obtain the permission of the Government before starting a newspaper and provides for such permission being withdrawn at any time by Government. Certain penalties are also provided for the cases in which papers are published without permission or after such permission has been revoked.

42. The Regulation has worked satisfactorily. It is essentially a preventive measure, and it has not been found necessary to put any of its penal provisions in motion. In the case of only one newspaper, which though published in the Mysore State has a small circulation elsewhere, has it been necessary to take any action at all, and in that case a warning has been communicated to the editor of the paper.

43. The Mysore Village Offices Regulation consolidates and amends the law relating to Village Offices. The desirability of such an enactment has long been recognized. The present Regulation is based on the Madras Act III of 1895. It introduces no radical change in the existing system but adheres, as far as possible, to the traditions of the Mysore Village Service with only just such modifications as are necessary to improve the efficiency of that service.

44. Its principal features are that,

(1) it prescribes the qualifications required for the five principal village offices of patel, shanbog, toti

talavar and nirganti, and regulates their appointment, removal and punishment in both alienated and unalienated villages;

(2) it abolishes the inefficient and inconvenient practice of two or more hakdars of one office doing the duties jointly or by turns; and,

(3) while recognising the hereditary character of these offices, it abolishes the practice of registering the offices of patel and shanbog in the names of females, though it does not take away the right of succession of males through females.

45. The Mysore Police Regulation unifies the law relating to an important branch of the public service. The Regulation is based on the Bombay Act IV of 1890, suitably modified to meet local conditions. The control of the Deputy Commissioner and the Amildar over the District and Taluk Police is maintained. The provisions of Act III of 1867—the Public Gambling Act—are also incorporated in the Regulation.

46. The other Regulations do not call for any detailed notice on this occasion.

Rules under Regulations.

47. In order to enable landowners to effectually protect their crops from the ravages of wild beasts, rules were framed under the Game and Fish Preservation Regulation to grant to landholders in certain malnad tracts a license to pursue and kill game within a specified area near their holdings on a reduced fee of Rs. 2 per annum.

48. Under the Excise Regulation, rules were framed for the retail vend of the special liquors manufactured in the Government Central Distillery, Bangalore, and to regulate the sale of Cocaine and Novocaine.

49. Rules were framed under the Municipal Regulation of 1906, fixing the number of members in each Municipality and regulating the conduct of elections where the elective system was introduced.

50. Under the Forest Regulation, rules were issued defining the privileges of ryots in the malnad in regard to the use of forest produce.

51. Rules were issued under the Criminal Procedure Code for the guidance of Benches of Magistrates.

52. The rules regarding sandal on private lands and the rules for prospecting and mining in State Forests will be referred to later on in the Address.

53. The rules for the grant of loans under the Land Improvement Loans Regulation and for other agricultural

purposes under section 194 of the Land Revenue Code were revised and consolidated. The powers of sanction of the Revenue Commissioner and of Deputy and Assistant Commissioners were increased, and Amildars and Deputy Amildars were also empowered to grant loans. The procedure in respect of the grant of loans was simplified with a view to facilitate the speedy disposal of applications, and the grant of small loans after summary enquiry by Assistant Commissioners was also authorised. The revision of the rules on these lines enabled the local officers to deal promptly with the large demand for loans during the distress.

Bills under consideration.

54. Of the bills before the Legislative Council, the revision of the Civil Procedure Code on the lines of the British Indian Act V of 1908 is an important and necessary measure. In the new bill the insolvency provisions of the old Code find no place and to supply the want a new Insolvency Bill has been taken up for consideration. The Guardian and Wards Bill is also an important measure intended to remedy the defects in the present law on the subject.

55. The Village Tank Panchayet Bill is still before the select committee and is undergoing careful consideration. The Treasure Trove Bill has been finally considered by the Legislative Council, though it has not yet been formally passed.

56. While on the subject of legislation, I must briefly refer to the draft regulation prepared in 1905 for the removal of religious and caste disabilities. You will remember that the draft was published for general information and numerous representations, both for and against, but chiefly against, the introduction of the draft regulation were received by the Government. The question formed the subject of discussion in this Assembly in the year 1906, and, as the general sentiment of the Assembly was against the passing of the proposed measure, and, as there was at that time no Legislative Council to deal with it, the Government resolved to defer any further action in the matter. The subject has recently been again brought into prominence, and a deputation of Mission bodies waited on His Highness the Maharaja in March last and submitted a memorial. It is the intention of the present Government to carry to its logical conclusion the action taken by their predecessors, that is to say, to place the draft regulation before the Legislative Council, and to leave it to that body to decide whether the proposed legislation is really called for. This course will ensure a full public discussion of an important question.

THE LAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

The Revenue Commissioner.

57. We shall now turn to the administration of the Revenue Department. Under a Government Order issued in September 1906, the Revenue Commissioner was declared responsible, until and unless the appointment of a special Famine Commissioner should become necessary for all measures to be adopted under the Famine Code both by way of preparation against famine and for the purpose of affording relief when distress developed into famine. In pursuance of this arrangement, in September 1908, when the seasonal conditions were threatening, the Revenue Commissioner undertook the chief executive control over Famine Administration in all its stages and the proper enforcement of the provisions of the Famine Code. Later on the work in connection with the distress increased largely and it was found necessary to relieve the Revenue Commissioner of some of his ordinary work so as to enable him to devote undivided attention to measures necessary for coping with the agricultural situation.

The Shekdari School.

58. The Shekdari School continued to do good work during the year. Its fourth session commenced in July 1908, and came to a close in the following December. The school had to be finally closed at the end of the fourth session as there was not among the old Shekdars a sufficient number of properly qualified men capable of receiving training. It is proposed to recruit the Shekdari service in the future from among the men who successfully pass out of the Government Engineering School at Mysore or the Rai Bahadur Arcot Narainswami Moodaliar's School at Bangalore. The total number of men trained in the Shekdari School from the commencement is 168, of whom 4 are Sanitary Inspectors and 133 are employed as Shekdars.

Sorting of Records.

59. The work of sorting vernacular records in district and taluk offices was continued during the year under report. The sorting rules are now fairly well understood by record-keepers and most of them are working with earnestness and on correct lines. But frequent and effective supervision on the part of the local and district Inspecting Officers is essential as well for the work being brought to a speedy termination as for the satisfactory maintenance of records in the future. It is rather dull and uninteresting work, but special attention to it is essential for the correct and speedy disposal of all kinds of official business.

The Revenue and Agricultural Gazette.

60. The Revenue and Agricultural Gazette is now running through its third year and its continuance has

been sanctioned for a further period of three years. The journal had a circulation of 756 copies on the 1st July 1909 exclusive of the 550 copies sent free to Government officials and others. Six supplements were issued on the following subjects:—

1. Handbook of Famine Administration.
2. Sericulture.
3. Cattle and Fodder.
4. Treatment for Bites by Rabid Animals.
5. Agricultural Associations.
6. Land Improvement Loans Rules.

61. In pursuance of representations made at the last year's Representative Assembly, 200 copies of the journal are being circulated free to certain Middle and Primary schools through the Inspector-General of Education. It is hoped that this experiment will lead to a wide diffusion of valuable information on agricultural matters among the ryot population. The concession will be extended to village schools also, should the results of the present experiment fulfil the expectations of Government.

THE AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

62. Experiments were carried on in the Hebbal Experimental Farm in regard to the use of green manures for ragi, the culture and manuring of paddy, its rotation with Bengal gram, the cultivation of sugar-cane throughout the year, and its cultivation in rotation with paddy, ground-nut and Bengal gram. The results are not yet available but will be published in due course. Trials were also made with varieties of paddy and sugar-cane.

63. The Revenue Commissioner obtained and distributed to landholders for trial some varieties of paddy, ground-nuts and grass-seed. He also arranged for the exhibition, demonstration and supply of certain agricultural implements. Trial plantations of mulberry have been started on some lands under the Marikanave tank.

64. A demonstration of sugar-making was held on the Hebbal farm and the use of the centrifugal machine was shown, as was also the use of a series of rectangular pans for boiling the juice with regulated heat. The sugar produced was whiter than any locally refined article sold in the market. The molasses was also converted into a fair quality of jaggory. These demonstrations were well attended by the agricultural population. A popular bulletin on sugar-cane and sugar-making based on the results obtained by the department is under preparation and will be shortly published in English and Kanarese.

65. There was a demand for improved agricultural implements tried on the Farm and it is intended to make demonstrations of such instruments in the mofussil districts also. In the laboratory, experiments and analyses connected with green manure, sugar-cane, coffee, and soils and soil-moisture were conducted.

Mycology.

66. The chief subject of Mycological investigation was the *Koleroga* of supari. The Mycologist made extensive tours in the affected regions and conducted experiments in the Sagar and Tirthahalli taluks and the Yedahalli sub-taluk. A small temporary laboratory was set up at Talaguppa in the Sagar taluk for the ready investigation of the disease. The full results will take some more time to be published but it is already clear that the disease can be profitably controlled by the spraying method. A special spray was used which was comparatively cheap and which worked in a most satisfactory manner.

67. The ring disease of potatoes was investigated and it was found that the disease was due to bacteria and not to fungi as was hitherto supposed. A preliminary bulletin on the subject has been recently published. The *anabe* disease of areca and a leaf disease of the betel-vine are also being studied and the spike disease of sandal has been taken up in a preliminary manner.

68. In the Entomological branch, a large number of insects have been collected and their life-history is being studied. Attention is being paid to two pests, the rice grass-hopper which has been doing great damage to paddy in the Sorab taluk and a hairy caterpillar (*kumbli hula*). A few months hence, it is intended to hold popular lectures on fungus and insect pests in various parts of the State. The lectures will be illustrated with lantern slides and it is hoped that by this means greater interest than exists at present will be aroused among the ryots in regard to these matters.

Cattle Shows.

69. Owing to the prevalence of cattle diseases and the scarcity, cattle shows were held only in a few places such as Chunchunkatte, Hemagiri and Ghati Subramanya.

The Dasara Exhibition.

70. The second Dasara Exhibition of Agricultural and Industrial products was held in October last and was largely attended. The third Exhibition is now going on.

The Civil Veterinary Department.

71. There were 8 veterinary hospitals and dispensaries working at the end of the year, one at the headquarters of each of the districts. Two more will be started in January next. In all 5,805 animals were treated in these institutions. The Inspector of Cattle Diseases and the Assistant Veterinary Inspectors did excellent out-door work to combat and minimize the ravages of the epidemics

of cattle disease which prevailed in the year under review. More than 14,000 head of cattle were inoculated with serum kindly supplied by the Imperial Bacteriologist from the Muktesar Laboratory. The growing popularity of this protective measure was very noticeable.

Agricultural Banks.

72. The Agricultural Banks, I regret to say, are fast disappearing owing chiefly to apathy and want of business habits and public spirit on the part of the managing members. Six banks were wound up during the year, leaving 22 in existence at the end of the year. Only three of them can be said to have done any business worth mentioning and only the Nanjangud bank has continued working with its own funds after repaying the Government loan.

73. A sum of Rs. 80,000 was recovered from the banks—those existing as well as those under liquidation—towards the Government loan and interest thereon. Owing to the general distress in the State, repayments were allowed to be postponed in several cases.

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES.

74. In pleasing contrast with the Agricultural Banks, considerable progress was made in the organization of Co-operative Societies. Their number increased from 27 to 45, the number of members from 2,451 to 4,481 and the paid up share capital from Rs. 57,000 to Rs. 1,05,000. The deposits by members increased from Rs. 6,300 to Rs. 12,700, indicating the growing confidence in these associations. The societies advanced a sum of Rs. 2¼ lakhs in cash loans to members, of which Rs. 2 lakhs were repaid during the year. Of the 45 societies, 19 were rural agricultural societies, 12 were concerned in granting loans and supplying provisions and 8 were industrial institutions. Of these last, 6 dealt with weaving, one with silk-reeling and one with the lacquer-work industry. The Co-operative movement has now become known all over the State, and popular interest in it appears to be spreading. Much, however, still depends on individual initiative and interest and for a considerable time to come, the societies will need the support and fostering care of intelligent and public-spirited men. This lesson has been emphasized during the year by the dissolution of the Mayasandra Grain Bank in the Anekal taluk, which had to be wound up for want of an efficient Secretary, the former Secretary having unfortunately succumbed to plague.

75. It is a matter for congratulation that the movement has received the active support and keen sympathy of several retired officers of Government, among whom special mention may be made of Rajamantrapravina Mr. C. Sreenivasiengar, retired Councillor, Mr. M. S. Narayan

Rao, retired Deputy Commissioner, and Mr. C. D. Ramaswamaiya, retired Superintendent of Police, the last of whom has rendered himself particularly useful in connection with mofussil societies.

76. With the support of the two gentlemen first named, a Central Co-operative Bank has been started in Bangalore for supplying funds to the various outlying societies, and His Highness the Maharaja has been graciously pleased to lodge a fixed deposit in this Bank to mark his appreciation of its usefulness.

77. Recently Mr. R. Ranga Rao, B.A.; B.L., an intelligent young man in the service of the State, has been sent to England with a scholarship from the Damodar Das Fund to go through a course of Economics with special reference to Co-operative Credit and to study types of such institutions on the continent of Europe where the movement has achieved important success.

REVENUE SURVEY AND SETTLEMENT.

78. During the year, re-survey operations were carried on in the taluks of Nagar, Thirthalli, Chicknayakanhalli, Tarikere and (old) Banavara, over an area of 1,100 square miles. The re-classification of wet and garden lands in regard to water-supply was done in the Maddagiri, Thirthalli and Nagar taluks and in the Koratgere sub-taluk.

79. The revision settlement of the Shikarpur taluk was brought into effect during the year resulting in a slight increase in the average wet and dry rates with a large decrease in the average garden rate. Proposals for the revision of the Sira and Pavagada taluks have recently been sanctioned by Government and those for the Tumkur taluk are under consideration.

80. The Inam Department was engaged as usual in issuing final quit-rent registers and title-deeds.

Registration.

81. There was a substantial increase in the number of documents registered and in the revenue of the Registration Department. There were 116 joint stock and other companies at the beginning of the year. Four new companies were registered during the year and 33 were wound up, leaving 87 working at the end of the year.

Stamps.

82. The revenue from stamps rose by nearly Rs. 50,000 and reached Rs. 8½ lakhs, the highest figure on record.

EXCISE.

83. During the year several minor administrative measures were adopted to bring the trade in liquor under proper control and to improve the efficiency of the Excise Department. The salary of the poorly paid *Vottu Mutsaddis* or excise clerks in taluk offices was raised, and the opening of a training school for excise officials was sanctioned.

84. The revenue of the department was Rs. 43,62,000 as against Rs. 41,83,000 in 1907-08 and was the highest on record. The increase was due to greater competition in the auction sales and the larger number of trees tapped for toddy.

85. This increase in a year of agricultural distress has been interpreted in some quarters as indicating a great spread of drunkenness among the people. Judging from the statistics of consumption, however, it is seen that the consumption of country spirits was 407,727 gallons in 1908-09 against 409,403 gallons in the previous year, showing a real though slight decrease. Consumption decreased in the districts of Kolar, Tumkur, Shimoga and Chitaldrug and in five taluks of the Mysore district—the areas most touched by the agricultural distress. The other districts showed an increase in consumption. The increase in Kadur was partly due to the rigorous suppression of illicit distillation.

86. There was an increase of 29,000 trees tapped for toddy, but this, it is understood, was due to the smaller yield from each tree owing to the drought. In 1907-08, as you are aware, the tree-tax on toddy trees was slightly enhanced. One effect of the measure was a large fall in the shop rental owing to uncertainty about the effect on consumption, but in 1908-09 competition was very keen and the shop rental rose by more than a lakh of rupees.

87. The consumption of beer and foreign liquor also diminished considerably. There was a large increase in the consumption of ganja.

88. During the year there was a decrease in the number of all kinds of liquor and drug shops, the total number being 4,762 against 4,962 in the previous year, a reduction of 200.

89. It will thus be seen that the increase of revenue has been obtained not by any encouragement of drinking but by more careful and effective management.

FORESTS.

90. An aggregate area of 73 square miles was notified as State Forest during the year, and an area of 145 square miles selected for reservation and special protection. Attention was paid to the improvement of communications in forests and to the construction of the necessary building accommodation for subordinates and inspecting officers. The work of forest survey and demarcation made satisfactory progress.

Forest Settlement operations.

91. Mr. M. Shama Rao, the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, continued as Forest Settlement Officer in addition to his other duties. The number of blocks pending settlement at the beginning of the year and the number

notified during the year were 21 and 22 respectively. Two blocks were settled, leaving a balance of 41 blocks remaining at the close of the year. In order to secure better progress, it has been decided to revive the appointment of a wholetime officer for this work.

92. Out of 2,545 square miles of State Forests, an area of 2,072 square miles or 81 per cent was successfully protected from fire.

93. The receipts from timber were Rs. 4,63,000 or Rs. 27,000 more than in the previous year. The collection of sandalwood was as usual confined to over-mature trees. A sum of only 9¼ lakhs of rupees was realized from the sale of sandalwood during the year as against Rs. 14,20,000 in the previous year. The quantity sold and the rates obtained were much less than in previous years. Though the revenue from sandalwood fell far short of the budget estimate, other subordinate heads showed a satisfactory increase. The surplus revenue of the department during the year was Rs. 10¾ lakhs against Rs. 16¼ lakhs in 1907-08 and against Rs. 10¼ lakhs, the average of the preceding five years.

94. With a view to reduce the cost of extraction of timber in the malnad forests and to facilitate the transport of heavy logs which could not be carried by the ordinary bullock carts, a road train consisting of a traction engine and three waggons was purchased and used in the Shimoga and Kadur districts. The train has been found satisfactory and another has been ordered.

95. The concessions granted by Government in February 1908 with the object of inducing *kumbis* accustomed to kumri cultivation to settle down as regular agriculturists have been taken advantage of by several families and the scheme gives every promise of success.

Sandalwood in Private lands.

96. In connection with sandalwood an important step has been taken by Government with a view to enlist the sympathies and the co-operation of the ryot in the protection of this most valuable product of the State. As you are aware, sandal is and has long been a monopoly of the State, and holders of all lands on which it grows are bound to protect it and abstain from injuring it under certain penalties. The land-holder has also no adequate facilities for securing the removal of any tree which is obstructive to cultivation or other lawful use of his land.

97. The evils of the system have formed the subject of frequent representations in this Assembly and have engaged the attention of successive administrators for the past nearly 40 years. In 1875 orders were actually passed for ryots being awarded a percentage of

the value of sandal trees felled on their lands by Government, but the practical difficulties encountered in carrying out the orders were regarded as insuperable and the scheme never came into operation. Various remedies were proposed from time to time, but no practical action was taken.

98. In 1907 the subject was again taken up and it was felt that the difficulties of procedure attendant on the scheme should not be allowed to stand permanently in the way of a measure the desirability of which had so long been recognised. The question was thoroughly discussed in all its aspects in consultation with Government officers and others, and the opinion elicited was almost unanimous that it would be both a gracious concession and good policy to give the ryot a share in the value of the trees growing on his land and to afford him facilities for the lawful removal of trees obstructing the legitimate use of the land. It was decided that a bonus should be given to the land-holder for every mature tree removed from his holding. A simple scale of values based on the girth of the tree was adopted for the purpose of computing the bonus. Facilities were also provided for the removal of trees at the desire of the land-holder, subject to the recovery of a small compensation in the case of immature trees. This levy of compensation is meant chiefly to discourage unnecessary applications and certain officers have been given the discretion to waive it.

99. It is hoped that these concessions will mitigate to a substantial extent the rigour of the Government monopoly and encourage land-holders to co-operate with Government in the propagation and preservation of sandal trees in the State.

GEOLOGICAL AND MINING.

100. The decline in activity in mining and prospecting which was noticed in 1907-08 continued during 1908-09 also, chiefly because of the low price of manganese and chrome which were the ores that had attracted public attention. In consequence, only 131 licenses and leases were issued and renewed during the year as against 204 in 1907-08.

101. One of the leases was for a mica block in the Seringapatam taluk and was the first lease granted for this mineral in Mysore. The results of prospecting were satisfactory and the mining lessees are a body of wealthy and influential gentlemen of Bombay with ample resources for carrying on mining operations.

Gold.

102. Of the Gold Fields of Kolar, the Mysore, Ooregum, Nandidrug and Champion Reef Mines are the chief gold producers. In regard to the Champion Reef, the anticipated improvement has not yet taken place, though favourable

signs are not wanting. A serious outbreak of under-ground fire stopped operations in the Nandidroog Mine for a time, but work has been resumed and the prospects are promising.

103. As regards other parts of the State, work was stopped in Tumkur and Chitaldrug and some prospecting operations of a not very promising character were carried on in Shimoga and Kadur.

104. The total value of the gold extracted during the year was Rs. 310 lakhs and the royalty realized was nearly Rs. 15½ lakhs.

Manganese.

105. The fall in the price of manganese considerably affected the manganese industry and during the last three months of the year there was no export of ore at all. Fifty-six thousand tons of ore were extracted in 1908-09 as against 75,000 tons in 1907-08; the royalty obtained by Government was Rs. 13,500 as against Rs. 26,000 in the preceding year. There is a prospect of production becoming brisker when the chief mines in the Shimoga district are taken over by the Workington Iron and Steel Company of England.

Chrome.

106. The position of chrome was likewise unsatisfactory. Only 3,000 tons of ore were extracted as against 11,000 in 1907-08. A part of the previous year's produce was also sold and the royalty realized was Rs. 3,500 as against Rs. 600 in the previous year.

Iron.

107. In the Address to you last year, reference was made to certain enquiries started by the State Geologist in regard to the supplies of iron ore available in the State and to certain experiments made by him in the smelting of iron ore and the production of steel. Dr. Smeeth's report is ready and will be published very shortly.

Inspection of Mines.

108. The number of persons employed in the mining industry in 1908 was 32,456 as against 34,641 in 1907. There were 421 accidents, of which 64 were fatal and resulted in the death of 90 persons.

General.

109. The rules issued in 1904 for the grant of licenses and leases have been found to be needlessly stringent in the case of minerals and metals other than gold. The rules have accordingly been revised in the light of the experience gained during the past four or five years. The revised rules will be issued shortly.

110. Another important matter that engaged the attention of Government was the conditions under which prospecting and mining operations could be permitted to be carried on in State and District Forests. After due consideration of the important requirements of forest conservancy on the one hand and of the need for facilitat-

ing the extension of mineral industries in the State on the other, a set of rules was issued in June last, which, it is believed, will be found to be satisfactory and acceptable.

111. An area of 1,550 square miles of country in the Hassan and Kolar districts was surveyed by the Geological Department. The tract though of considerable scientific interest was not found to contain any minerals of economic importance.

Water-Supply.

112. An enquiry into the nature and extent of underground supplies of water was started during the year and a large number of observations have been taken in connection with wells and underground mine-workings. This enquiry is with reference to proposals which have been put forward for obtaining larger supplies of water than are now available by means of bore-holes, but as far as at present ascertained, the conditions do not appear to be favourable for any such scheme. Boring may, however, prove of some use for testing the character of the underground water-supply with a view to deepening some of the existing wells in order to secure further supplies for domestic purposes during exceptionally dry seasons.

PUBLIC WORKS.

113. The total expenditure on Public Works during the year was nearly Rs. 41 lakhs from all sources including local funds, of which Rs. 10 lakhs were spent on irrigation works, Rs. 26 lakhs on civil works, and Rs. 4½ lakhs on the Cauvery Power Scheme.

114. Of the principal irrigation works in progress a sum of Rs. 1,37,000 was spent on the completion of the irrigation channels of the Marikanave Project. Water was given up to the 18th mile of the right channel and up to the 16th mile of the left channel. About 6,500 acres of dry and wet lands were under cultivation during the year, the assessment due thereon being Rs. 19,500.

115. The Ramasagara tank in the Kolar district, which was under restoration after its breach in 1903, was almost completed during the year, but a rather bad settlement occurred, as to the causes of which professional opinion is divided. The subject is under investigation pending which further work has been held in abeyance. A sum of Rs. 1,15,000 was spent on the Sowlunga tank in the Shimoga district and the bund and head sluices were constructed. The question of irrigation channels is under consideration.

116. Owing to extraordinary floods in the Cauvery the Krishnaraj Katte anicut breached in May last and attempts were made to close the breach temporarily. During the execution of the work the Offg. Chief Engineer, Captain Dawes, R.E., lost his life on the 30th July last

in heroically attempting to rescue one of the workmen from drowning. The work is being continued and the permanent repair of the anicut will be taken up during the next dry season.

117. Much attention was paid to the restoration of minor tanks in connection with the scarcity that prevailed and an expenditure of Rs. 1,18,000 was incurred on this class of work.

118. Progress was made in opening out and improving some important roads in the malnad parts of the Hassan, Kadur and Shimoga districts.

119. Among works of miscellaneous public improvement carried out during the year were the laying out of extensions at Bangalore and Shimoga, the drainage of the Bangalore City, improvements to the water-supply works of Bangalore and Mysore, and the laying out of new water-supply works for the towns of Harihar and Shimoga.

120. The Third Installation of the Cauvery Power Scheme was practically completed during the year and the full supply of power was given to the mines on the 15th July 1908. The gross revenue realized from the scheme during 1908-09 was Rs. 17½ lakhs and, deducting the working expenses of Rs. 3 lakhs, the net revenue amounted to Rs. 14½ lakhs.

121. Owing to the steady decrease in the volume of water in the Cauvery and Kabbani rivers at the commencement of the last hot weather, it was found necessary to take special steps to conserve the supply of water in the river and control the channels so as to save the sugarcane crop under them and keep up the supply of water at Sivasamudram for the electric works. A special Public Works Division was formed for the purpose and proved useful up to May, when the heavy and somewhat unusual rains in that month dispelled all anxiety on this account.

RAILWAYS.

122. No new railway construction was undertaken during the year and the length of open lines owned by the State remained the same as before viz., 411 miles.

123. You will be glad to learn that the Government of India has sanctioned the revised project for the Bangalore-Chikballapur Light Railway. The Company has been authorised to raise the necessary capital so as to start work at an early date. There is, however, little doubt that for the prosperity and efficiency of this line it should be connected with the Hosur-Morapur railway on the south and with the Dharmavaram-Pakala line on the north-east.

124. The location or final surveys of the Mysore-Hassan line and the Nanjangud-Erode line have been taken up by the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway Company and the South Indian Railway Company respectively.

125. The total net revenue to the State from the railways was Rs. 11,36,000 and the total expenditure Rs. 10,54,000, and the percentage of net earnings to capital outlay was 4·65 for the metre gauge lines and 4·79 for the broad gauge line.

126. The contract for the working of the Mysore State lines by the Southern Mahratta Railway Company having terminated, a new contract taking effect from the 1st July 1908 has been entered into with the new Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway Company by the Secretary of State for India acting on behalf of the Durbar. Under this revised contract the Railway Company receives a remuneration of one-twentieth of the net earnings of all the lines as against one-fourth of the net earnings of the Mysore-Harihar line and nothing for the branch lines under the old contract. This change is expected to be beneficial to the State revenue.

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

127. There was an increase of 5 per cent in civil litigation, chiefly in the Bangalore Division, and there was also a rise in the number of offences reported and persons brought to trial, the percentages of increase being 8¼ and 10½ respectively. The variations are chiefly attributable to the distress that prevailed during the greater part of the year.

Benches of Magistrates.

128. In response to the representations made in the Assembly from time to time for the constitution of Benches of Honorary Magistrates, Government passed orders in April last for the appointment of such Benches in Bangalore and Mysore as a tentative measure. The scheme has just come into working order.

POLICE.

129. The sanctioned strength of the Regular Police at the end of the year was 855 officers and 5,090 men, *i.e.*, 33 officers and 29 men less than last year. The cost of the Police Department was Rs. 9,55,000 giving an average of Rs. 175·23 per 1,000 of population. The Village Police performed their work on the whole satisfactorily.

130. One incident of note in the year under report was the capture of several dangerous gangs of criminals known as Pamlores, who had been for some years past carrying on their depredations unchecked in the bordering British districts of the Bombay and Madras Presidencies and also in the northern districts of Mysore. They belonged to gangs whose registered head-quarters were in the Kadur,

Hassan and Shimoga districts, and were apparently unnoticed, if not actually harboured, by the patels of some villages. In October 1908 thirty-eight of them were captured with stolen property worth more than Rs. 5,300. These were tried in the Sessions Court of Dharwar on various charges of dacoity, and twenty-five were convicted and sentenced to imprisonment for seven years each. The organization and strategy which facilitated this capture reflect great credit on the Inspector-General of Police, Mr. Dalavai Devaraj Urs.

131. The total number of cognizable cases reported during the year was about 18 per cent larger than in 1907-08, the increase being chiefly in minor offences against property. The largest increase was in the districts of Tumkur, Kolar and Bangalore. The percentage of convictions to cases decided was 75 as against 64 in 1907-08 and the percentage of convictions to the number of arrests was slightly higher than in the preceding year. In the recovery of stolen property there was a very marked improvement.

132. Besides the gang of criminals captured in October 1908, other criminal gangs were vigilantly watched during the period. The *talaris* and *totis* employed to watch road-ookads rendered very useful service during the period of drought and scarcity. To these precautionary measures may be attributed in some degree the fact that, notwithstanding the scarcity which prevailed, the increase in crime was less than might have been expected.

133. Among administrative measures to improve the efficiency of the Police Department was the introduction of the Investigation Centre Scheme into the Bangalore and Mysore districts. Only the cities of Bangalore and Mysore remain to be dealt with under the scheme, and the subject is engaging the attention of the Government. A Criminal Investigation Department has also been recently formed for dealing with serious organized crime.

The Military Department.

134. The military forces of the State continued to be maintained in a high state of efficiency.

MEDICAL.

135. There were 149 hospitals and dispensaries in the State. The patients treated in them numbered a million and a quarter. The number of in-patients was nearly 12,000. The Maternity Hospitals at Bangalore and Mysore continued to be useful and popular and dealt with 25,000 patients, of whom 1,500 were in-patients. There were 110 midwives at work and they attended to 6,700 cases. Nine thousand five hundred persons were

treated in the Eye Infirmary at Bangalore. It has been decided to erect a suitable Eye Hospital to meet the growing requirements of this branch of medicine.

136. There were 26 Hindu vaidyasalas and Unani dispensaries in existence and the total number of patients treated in them was 213,234, of whom 107,078 were men, 51,174 were women, and 54,982 were children. These hospitals seem to be as much resorted to as the institutions dispensing Western medicine. The Ayurvedic College, referred to in the last year's Address was opened on the 1st January 1909 with 10 students and promises to work well.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

137. Vital statistics show a satisfactory improvement. The birth-rate was higher, viz., 20·31 per mille in 1908-09 as against 14·98 in 1907-08 and the death-rate was lower, viz., 16·26 per mille as against 18·82 in the previous year. Fevers and cholera claimed fewer victims, while plague, though it prevailed in all the districts, was very much milder than in the preceding year.

138. The very considerable fall in the number of plague cases was, partly at any rate, due to the increased attention paid to inoculation and rat destruction throughout the State, in addition to the usual measures of evacuation and disinfection. The number of rats destroyed was 225,000. Inoculation was encouraged in Bangalore, Mysore and Kolar by the payment of a small fee to poor persons as a compensation for loss of wages for a few days. To fight the recent outbreak of plague in this city a vigorous campaign of inoculation has been organised and nearly 20,000 persons or about one-third of the population of the city have been inoculated up to date. This reflects great credit on the local officers and the private gentlemen who so readily came forward to popularise the measure.

139. Over 100,000 persons were vaccinated during the year, showing an increase of nearly 25 per cent over those of the previous year. The Kurnool system of vaccination has worked very satisfactorily and is largely responsible for the good results obtained. Vaccination was compulsory in Bangalore, Mysore and the Kolar Gold Fields. Government have under consideration the question of making it compulsory in other selected parts of the State. To ensure the quality of the lymph, the Chemical Examiner and Bacteriologist to Government examines samples of the lymph and certifies to its purity before any supply is issued for use.

140. A Health Exhibition was again held in Mysore during the last Dasara, when many interesting exhibits

were on view. A similar Exhibition is now in progress and it is also intended to form a permanent Health Museum.

Government Gardens.

141. The Government gardens, and particularly the Lal-bagh, have been considerably improved both with a view to decorative effect and to educational value. New nurseries were prepared and all locally available horticultural seeds were collected. Plans and estimates have been prepared for a horticultural and agricultural seed-depôt and its construction will be taken up early. Several experiments were made with new plants. It is intended to make special experiments in the cultivation of fruit trees, and an experimental station will be opened in the bed of the Sunnakal tank which has to be breached in connection with the drainage of the Bangalore City. Over 1,000 fruit trees have been received from Australia and a large number from other countries, and these will be tried in the new station.

The Government Museum.

142. The Government Museum at Bangalore continued to be very popular and was visited by 275,000 persons. The Natural History section was largely added to and the Economic section was also improved.

The Meteorological Department.

143. There is little to record about the work of the Meteorological Department except that it was conducted with the usual regularity and accuracy.

The Government Press and Stationery Departments.

144. The same might be said of the Government Press and Stationery Departments also. In the Stationery department, English made papers and stationery of the value of Rs. 27,000 and Indian made paper of the value of Rs. 58,000 were used, against Rs. 27,000 and Rs. 69,000 respectively during the previous year.

DISTRICT FUNDS.

145. An important step taken during the year was the grant to the District Boards of a voice in the administration of the Irrigation Cess Fund. Under the previous system, the expenditure of the Fund was almost entirely in the hands of the Public Works Department and there was no opportunity for any expression of local opinion as to the urgency or otherwise of a proposed work, with the result that local interests and requirements were not sufficiently considered. It was therefore ruled that Taluk Boards should draw up in the form of a budget an annual programme of local works to be undertaken during the year, that District Boards should scrutinize these and make up a district budget and that the Revenue Commissioner should consolidate these budgets, consider them in consultation with the Chief Engineer and submit them for the orders of Government. The system will, it is hoped, tend to a satisfactory administration of the Irrigation Cess

Fund and to a judicious application of it to local irrigational purposes, while the actual execution of the works will, as heretofore, devolve on the professional staff of the Public Works Department.

UNICIPAL BOARDS.

146. At the end of the year, in addition to the City Municipalities of Bangalore and Mysore, 20 local areas had been declared as municipalities working under the Municipal Regulation of 1906. For these municipalities, rules were framed to regulate the number of Councillors, and it was laid down that one-third of the number should be elected by the citizens and one-third nominated by the Government, and that the remaining one-third should consist of *ex-officio* members. Assistant Commissioners in charge of Revenue Sub-divisions were appointed Presidents of Municipalities in their Sub-divisions at places other than district head-quarters. For the more efficient carrying on of sanitary work, the Health Officers at Bangalore and Mysore were appointed Vice-Presidents of the Municipal Councils in matters relating to Public Health.

147. A committee was appointed to draw up a scheme for the improvement of the Bangalore City and the Municipal Council has taken up a project to construct sanitary huts for the sweepers employed by that body.

148. There is a proposal to form a company in the town of Davangere for generating electrical power for lighting and industrial purposes, and the Municipal Council has been permitted to take shares worth Rs. 5,000 in the concern.

149. The long-standing question of the improvement of the town of Shimoga reached a practical solution during the year, and projects for the extension of the town and for water-supply were sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 1,32,000, of which about a lakh will be borne by Government. The balance, (*i.e.*) a moiety of the cost of the water-supply, will be a loan to the municipality repayable in 20 years with interest at 4 per cent per annum. As soon as these projects are completed, that of improving the drainage will be taken up.

150. The Harihar water-works and the electrification of the Mysore City water-works were completed during the year. A project for the supply of water to the town of Mudgere has also been sanctioned.

The Mysore City Improvements.

151. The number of members on the Mysore City Improvement Trust Board was increased from 8 to 9. The Health Officer of the Mysore City Municipality and the Deputy Sanitary Commissioner to Government have been appointed *ex-officio* trustees. Section 20 of the

Regulation was amended so as to empower the Board of Trustees to exercise certain powers of the Municipal Council in regard to streets, drains, privies, sewers, the service of notices, the execution of works and the recovery of expenses under the regulation.

152. The following new projects were sanctioned during the year:—

	Rs.
(i) Sanitary Improvements of the Fort	6,12,620
(ii) Improving the flood water drain in No. III Drainage area	3,703
(iii) Arching over Col. Purchase's drain and filling it up to ground level	6,990
(iv) Drainage and other works of the Lakshmipuram Extension	17,133
(v) Countergrading a portion of Purnaiya's nala	4,078

153. All the above works were put in hand during the year and under the first of these, an expenditure of Rs. 1,07,089 was incurred in acquiring 84 properties, out of 360 to be acquired. As an experimental measure, 14 rat-proof houses of armoured hollow cement concrete blocks were constructed in the Chetnahalli extension at a cost of Rs. 525 each. The expenditure incurred by the Board during the year on the various improvements amounted to Rs. 2,44,823. The total amount spent by the Board up to the end of June 1909 is Rs. 20,68,182.

MUZRAI.

154. During the year a sum of Rs. 33,000 was spent on the repair of 94 Muzrai institutions, of which a sum of Rs. 15,000 was contributed by Government and the balance came from the funds of the institutions concerned.

155. The appointment of a Muzrai Superintendent was alluded to in the last year's Address. During the year, this officer inspected the important institutions in the Mysore, Hassan and Bangalore districts.

The Archæological Department.

156. The officer in charge of the Archæological Department inspected several buildings of historical and archæological interest and discovered a large number of new inscriptions. In October last, excavations were conducted on the site of the ancient town of Chandravalli near Chitaldrug and various interesting articles were found, among which were coins of the Andhra period (2nd century B.C. to 5th century A.D.) and of the Roman Emperor Augustus (31 B.C. to 14 A.D).

157. Among the manuscripts obtained was the Loka Vibhaga, a Jaina work of the 5th century A.D., which is of special interest as fixing 437 A.D. as the year when the Pallava king Simhavarma came to the throne.

158. Recently, a short connected account of the various dynasties referred to in the inscriptions collected in the volumes of the Epigraphia Carnatica has been prepared by Mr. Rice, the late Director of Archæological Researches, and has been published by Government. The book is designated "Mysore and Coorg from the Inscriptions."

EDUCATION.

159. The year 1908-09 was one of very satisfactory progress in the Educational Department. Forty-three Government institutions were newly opened during the year, while 42 institutions, chiefly unaided, ceased to exist. There was also a large increase in the number of private institutions, *i.e.*, institutions not conforming to the departmental standards. In all, the total number of institutions rose from 4,146 to 4,310, and their strength from 123,000 to 139,000 pupils. The percentage of boys at school to those of school-age rose from 25·2 to 28·4, and that of girls from 4·72 to 5·3. This marked improvement in attendance has principally occurred in Anglo-Vernacular and Vernacular Middle and Primary Schools for boys, and is attributed chiefly to the measures adopted during the year for the abolition of fees in the Middle School classes of all Village Elementary Schools, and in the primary classes of all Anglo-Vernacular and Vernacular Schools of the department, and for the introduction of compulsory English education into all Anglo-Vernacular Schools from the III Class upwards.

160. Female education made good progress; the number of institutions rose from 259 to 272, and the strength of pupils from 19,000 to 21,400. A lady teacher of the Maharani's College took her B.A. degree during the year, being the third to pass out of the College in this way, and a lady student passed the Pandit's Examination in Sanskrit.

161. The increase of the pay of village school masters to a minimum of Rs. 10 referred to in the last year's Address came into full effect during the year under review.

162. In connection with the re-organisation of the Colleges to suit the requirements of the new regulations of the University, the necessary additional accommodation has been provided at Mysore, and an additional Professor of English has been recently appointed. A grant has been sanctioned for the improvement of the library. In the Central College, the new Professor of Physics joined duty in November 1908, and the necessary arrangements have been made for the teaching of Geology, Botany and Zoology. Special grants have been made for laboratory equipment and for the improvement of the library, and a block of

buildings for the Physics laboratory is under construction. The High School department was separated from the College department, and placed under a tried and efficient headmaster. It is intended to erect a suitable building for the High School and a good site has been selected for the purpose.

163. The provision of suitable school buildings in rural parts has engaged the attention of Government, and a grant of Rs. 54,000 was made in 1908-09 for the purpose. A similar special grant of Rs. 50,000 has been repeated this year.

164. Another important event of the year was the introduction of moral and religious teaching in Government schools. A departmental conference was held to draw up curricula for this teaching, and suitable text-books and other necessary adjuncts were selected and prescribed. The scheme is, however, in a tentative stage and its progress and results are being watched.

Manual Instruction.

165. Sloyd centres were opened in connection with 9 out of the 10 High Schools in the State and placed under the charge of teachers trained by Dr. Larsson. They have been equipped with 180 benches for the teaching of 1,260 boys. Everywhere the pupils have taken to sloyd with great enthusiasm and the models and drawings prepared by them have been pronounced to be very neat and in some cases excellent. During the latter part of the year 12 centres for cardboard work were also started.

Kindergarten. Instruction.

166. During the year about 260 teachers were trained in Kindergarten methods.

Technical and Industrial Education.

167. The number of Industrial Schools increased from 19 to 20 and their strength from 888 to 1,198. All the schools, and the Mysore school in particular, did good work during the year. Much useful work was done on the demonstration farm attached to the Mysore Normal School and a large number of teachers of Elementary Schools were there trained in simple practical Agriculture.

Sericulture

168. The scheme started in 1906 of training a few village schoolmasters in sericulture in the Tata's Silk Farm at Bangalore and employing them in touring in the interior explaining to the villagers the modern methods of sericulture did not prove a success. These teachers were then reverted to the Education Department and required to impart instruction out of school hours to the sons of sericulturists, in the hope that the youngsters would take to advanced methods more kindly than their conservative elders. This system also has not worked satisfactorily. Other arrangements are under consider-

ation for making use of the Silk Farm for the improvement of sericulture.

Oriental Library.

169. Manuscripts of rare works such as the Jaiminiya Upanishad and the Talavakara Upanishad were obtained for the Oriental Library, and the Chanikya Arthasastra and Taittiriya Brahmana, Vol. I, were published during the year.

Damodar Das Scholarships.

170. During the last year four Damodar Das scholarships were awarded, two for the study of mining and metallurgy, one for Electrical Engineering and one for Medicine. This year one scholarship has been awarded for Electrical Engineering, and two officers of the State service have been given these scholarships supplemented by State grants for the study of Agriculture and Agricultural Chemistry respectively. A special scholarship has also, as already stated, been awarded for the study of Economics with special reference to Co-operative Credit.

Educational Museum and Exhibition.

171. Instead of holding an exhibition for a short time during the Dasara, orders have been passed to open a permanent museum of educational exhibits in Bangalore. It is proposed to locate this temporarily in the Sheshadri Memorial Hall pending the construction of a permanent building in the premises of the new High School.

The Indian Institute of Science.

172. The construction of the buildings for the Indian Institute of Science has been commenced. The constitution of the governing bodies of the Institute has been recently laid down by the Government of India. The arrangements give the State a due share in the administration of the institution.

THE VISIT OF HIS EXCELLENCY THE VICEROY.

173. As I commenced this Address bycongratulating you on a bounty of nature, so it is a pleasure to me to conclude it by felicitating you on a political event of no little interest and importance that is soon to happen. It is a visit from the Viceroy and Governor-General of India. His Excellency Lord Minto has been pleased to accept His Highness the Maharaja's invitation to visit Mysore as His Highness' guest. His Highness feels sure that all classes of his subjects will join him in according a hearty welcome to the august representative of that mighty Power which is the great guardian of peace and order in India, and to which the people of Mysore are bound by the sacred bonds of loyalty and gratitude.

T. ANANDA ROW,

Dewan of Mysore.